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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 534

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to reauthorize the Select Joint Committee on
Veterans' Affairs.

WHEREAS, the Select Joint Committee on Veterans' Affairs has endeavored prudently to examine the almost infinite variety of new and complex problems confronting Tennessee's veterans and to propose viable and humane solutions thereto; and

WHEREAS, during the course of its intensive study, the Select Joint Committee on Veterans' Affairs has held public hearings, listening to and helping to solve problems which confront our veterans, including problems in the areas of veterans' preference in hiring and promotion in state government, improved employment opportunities for veterans, treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder syndrome for Vietnam veterans; and the ever-shrinking G.I. Bill for college-bound veterans; and

WHEREAS, the committee has also examined the effects of federal legislation which has a negative impact on the expenditure of federal funds for veterans' health care; and

WHEREAS, the committee has studied the rapidly declining number of gravesites available in National Veterans' Cemeteries and has guided to passage sweeping legislation which establishes Tennessee State Veterans' Cemeteries under a U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs-sponsored grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee State Veterans' Cemetery Program provides a dignified final resting place for hundreds of deserving veterans; and

WHEREAS, the committee has also been instrumental in the passage of legislation establishing Tennessee State Veterans' Homes to provide care and support for honorably discharged veterans in their golden years; and

WHEREAS, the committee has also attempted to address the obstacles to employment for officers and senior enlisted personnel of the United States Armed Forces who are no longer assigned to active duty as a result of the "downsizing" of our military; and

WHEREAS, the committee has investigated ways and means to establish a system of re-entry to expeditiously assimilate federal military service alumni into productive employment or self-employment opportunities, and plans to continue this comprehensive study in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the Select Joint Committee on Veterans' Affairs is an invaluable asset to this General Assembly and Tennessee's veterans, and its mandate should be reauthorized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That in recognition of the unique needs of Tennessee's veterans, the Select Joint Committee on Veterans' Affairs is hereby reauthorized for a period of two (2) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of eight (8) members of the House of Representatives and eight (8) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That vacancies on the Select Joint Committee shall be filled by the Speaker of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies, including the Department of Veteran Affairs, shall provide assistance to the Select Joint Committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the select committee shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly no later than January 2, 2003, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.